

REMONSTRANCE

OF THE

State of the Kingdome

TREATING

Vpon every particular thing, which the

Commons in this present Parliament Assembled, from the first Sitting for the space of these 12. Months have with their Diurnall endeavours, and faithfull care to the Publick good of this Kingdome wrassled with all the Dangers, Grievances, Calamities, and various distempers, which overwhelmed the liberty of the Subjects, and safety of the Realme speaking of the present State of the whole Kingdome.

SHEWING

VVith what vigilancie they have eased this Nation from illegall Impositions, purging it from all corrupt Courts of Justice, and the pernicious members thereof.

DECLARING

The excellent Lawes that are in preparation, for removing the inordinate Power, and usurpations of the Bishops, for reforming the idlenesse of many of the Clergie, and for maintaining godly, and diligent Preachers throughout the whole Kingdome.

With their unanion Care, and Solicitation for the poore distressed Protestants in Ireland.

Die Mercurii 15 Decemb. 1641.

The Remonstrance.

HE Commons in this present Parliament assembled having with much earnestnesse and zeale to the publick good of this Kingdome, and his Majesties Honour, for the space of this 12. moneths wrestled with the great dangers, miseries, and various distempers, which had overwhelmed the liberty, peace, & prosperity of this Kingdome, and almost undermined the foundation of his Royall Throne; doe yet find an abounding malignity in those parties and Factions; who doe still labour to foment Jealosies betwixt the King and this Parliament, to the deprivation of the publique peace of this Realme. For the preventing of those miserable effects, which such malicious endeavours may produce, We have thought good to declare.

1 *The Roote of these mischievous designs.*

2 *The Maturity, to which they have attained before the beginning of the Parliament.*

3 *The effectuall meanes, which have bin used for the extirpation of those dangerous evils, and the Progress, which therein have bin made by his Majesties goodness, and the wisdom of the Parliament,*

4 *The wayes of opposition, by which that Progress have interrupted.*

5 *The courses to be taken for the removing of those obstacles, & for the accomplishing of our faithfull endeavours, of restoring the ancient Honour, greatnesse, and security of this Crowne and Nation. The Root of all this mischief wee find to be a malignant designe of subverting the fundamentall Lawes, upon which the Religion and Justice of this Kingdome are firmly establishd. The Actors hereof have beene.*

1 *The Jesuited Papists who have the lawes as the obstacles of that subversion of Religion, which they so much long for.*

2 *The Bishops and the corrupt part of the Clergie, who cherish formality, and superstition, as the probable supports of their Ecclesiasticall Usurpation.*

3 *Such Counsellors and Courtiers, as for private ends, have engaged themselves to further the interests of some forraigne Princes, or States to the prejudice of his Majestie, and the State at home.*

The Common Principles, by which they governed their particular actions were these.

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1 To maintain continuall differences betwixt the King and the people, upon questions of Prerogative, and liberty, that so they might gaine to themselves, and their parties, the places of greatest trust and power in the Kingdome.

2 To suppress the purity of Religion, and such persons as were best affected to it.

3 To conjoyne the Arminian part to their owne ends, and to enlarge a difference betwixt the common Protestant, and these, whom they call Puritanes; to introduce such Ceremonies, as are fittest for accommodation with Popery: that so they might compose a body fit to act such Counsels as were most conducible to their owne ends.

4 To disaffect the King to Parliaments by slanders and false imputations; and by putting him upon other wayes of supply: which in shew were fuller of advantage, then the ordinary course of Subsidies: though in truth they brought more losse then gaine both to the King and people, & have caused the distractions under which we suffer.

In the beginning of his Majesties raigne, the Jesuited Councell began to revivue us and flourish, having being somewhat damp't by the breach of Spaine in the last yeare of King James, and by his Majesties Marriage with France,

The first evidence of their recovery was the dissolution of the Parliament at Oxford. The losse of the *Rochel* Fleet by the helpe of our shipping set forth, and delivered over to the French, in opposition to the advice of Parliament, which was the losse of all the strength, and security of the Protestant Religion in France. The diverting of his Majesties course of Warres from the *West-Indies*. The precipitate breach with France by taking their Ships to a great value, without making recompence to the English. The peace with Spaine without consent of Parliament, contrary to the promise of King James to both Houses whereby the *Palatinat* cause was deserted.

The charging of the Kingdome with Billeted Soldiers in all parts of it, and that concomitant designe of Germane horse. The dissolving of the Parliament in the second yeare of his Majesties raigne after the Declaration of their intent to grant 5 Subsidies. The exacting of the like proportion of 5 Subsidies after the Parliament dissolv'd, by Commission of Loan, and divers Gentlemen and others imprisoned for not yeelding to pay that Loan, whereby many of them contracted such sicknesse, as cost them their lives. Great summes of money required, and raised by Privy Seales. An unjust attempt to extort great payment from the Subject by way of Excise; and a Commission issued

under Seale to that purpose, the petition of right, which was granted in full Parliament, blasted with an illegall declaration. Another Parliament dissolved 4th Mar. The priviledge of the Parliament broken, by imprisoning diverse members of the house, detayning them close Prisoners for many monethes together, who were tyrannically abused to the damage of their lives.

After the breach of the Parliament in the 4th yeare of his Maiesty; Injustice oppression and violence broke in upon us without any restraint or moderation. The first project wae the great summes exacted through the w^{ole} k^{ing}dome for default of knightood.

Tunnage and poundage have beene received without colour or pretence of law.

Many other heauie imposition continued against law, the booke of rates lately enhanced to a high proportion: and the ordinary course of Iusticie wholly obstructed unto them.

And although all this was taken upon pretence of guarding the Ser yet a new and unheard of tax of Ship-money was devised upon the same pretence, by both which there was charged upon the subject neere 700000 l. some yeares.

The *Monopolies* of Sope, Salt, Wine, Leather, Sei-cole, P^{ens}, and in a manner of all things of most necessary use. The restraint of the Liberties of the Subjects in their habitation, Trades, and other interests. Their vexation and oppression by Purveyers, Clerks of the Market, and Salt Peter men. The site of pretended *Nazards*, as buildings in and about *London*; conversion of *Arable* into pasture continuance of pasture under the name of depopulation. The intolerable seizing of the money, and Bullion in the Mint, and the whole *Kingdome* like to be robbed at once, in that abominable Project of *Brasse-money*.

The Court of Star-chamber hath abounded in extravagant censures for the maintenance, and improvement of *Monopolies*, and other unlawfull taxes w^{hereby} his Majesties subjects have bin much oppressed by grievous fines, imprisonments, Ser^gantizings, mutilations, whippings, Pillories, Gags, confinements, Banishments, other so rig^d a manner, as hath never bin heard of; Iudges have bin put out of the places, for refusing to doe against their Oathes and consciences, Lawyers have beene cheekt, for being faithfull to their Clients. Solicitors and Attorneys have beene threatened and some punished for following lawfull suites. New Oaths have beene forced upon the Subject against

Law: The new Indicatories erected without Law. The Chancery, Exchequer chamber, and Court of Wards, and other *English* Courts have been grievous in exceeding their jurisdiction, Titles of Honour, Judiciall places, Serjeant-ships at Law, and other Offices have been sold for great summes of money; whereby the Common Justice of the Kingdome have been much endangered by giving occasion to Bribery, Extortion and Partiality. Commissions have been granted for examining the excesse of Fees, and when great exactions have been discovered, Compositions have been made with Delinquents for their security in offending in time to come.

The usuall course of pricking Sheriffes not observed, but many times Sheriffes made in an extraordinary way, sometimes as a punishment and charge vnto them: sometimes such were pricked out, as would be instrument to execute whatsoever they would have to be done. The Bishops and the rest of the Clergy, did triumph in suspensions, excommunications, depravations, and degradations of divers painefull learned and pious Ministers, The High Commission grew to such exce'sse of severity, as was not much lesse then the Romish Inquisition, which consisted of those three parts.

1. The Government must be set free from all restraint of Lawes concerning our Persons and States.

2. There must be a conjunction betwixt Papists and Protestants in Doctrine, Discipline, and Ceremonies: onely it must not yet be called Popery.

3. The Puritanes under which name they include all those, that desire to preserve the Lawes and Liberties of the Kingdome, must be rooted out: For the effecting of this new Canons, and a new Liturgie was made to reduce Scotland to those Popish Superstitions: and an Army was raised to force them to it: but the Scots likewise raised an Army in their owne defence. And when both Armies were come together ready for a bloody encounter, his Majesties most gracious disposition, and the Councell of the English Nobility, and dutifull submission of the Scots did so farre prevayle against the evill Councell of others, that a Pacification was made, and his Majesty returned with Peace and much Honour to London.

We have reconciled the Scots and made an exact pacification in both kingdomes. yet the difficulties in this thing alone seemed insuperable which by the providence we have overcome

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The contraries in compatible, which yet a in great measure we have reconciled. 6. Subsidies have been granted and a Bill of 7. old money which if it be duly levied, may equal 6. Subsidies more, in all 600000 l. Besides we have contracted a debt to the Scots of 220000 l. and yet God hath so blessed the endeavours of this Parliament that the Kingdome is a great gainer by all these charges. The Ship-money is abolished, which cost the Kingdome above 200000 l. a yeare. The Coat and Conduct money, and other military charges are taken away; which in many Countries amounted to no lesse then the Ship-money, The Monopolies are suppressed; whereof some few did prejudice the Subjects above a Million yearly. The Sope 10000 l. The Wine 30000 l. The Leather exceeded both, the Salt could not be lesse then that, besides the interior Monopolies, which if they could be exactly computed, would make up an infinite Summe But the living Counsellours and Actors of these mischiefs have been so quell'd by the Justice done to the Earle of Strafford, the flight of the Lord Finch and Secretary VVindebanke, the accusation and imprisonment of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Judge Bartlet, and the impeachment of divers other Bishops, and Judges, that it is like not onely to be an ease to the present times, but a preservation to the future: The discontinuance of Parliaments is prevented by the Bill for a Triannuall Parliament, and the abrupt dissolution of this Parliament by another Bill; by which it is proved it shall not be dissolved, or adjourned without the consent of both Houses. The immoderate power of the Council Table & the excessive abuse of that power is so ordered, that none hereafter shall have ever cause to complain thereof. The Canons and the power of Canon-making are blasted by the Vote of both Houses. The exorbitant power of Bishops, and their Courts are much abated by some Provisions in the Bill against the High Commission Court.

The Authors of many innovations in Doctrine, the Ministers that have beene scandalous in their lines are either inwardly convicted by the sight of their owne folly, or outwardly restrained by feare of punishment, The Forrests are by a good law reduced to their right bounds; the inchoachments and oppressions of the Stannery Court, the extortions of the Clarke of the market: and the vexatious proceedings for great fines are by other beneficiall lawes reformed & prevented. Many excellent lawes are in preparation for removing the inordinate power and usurpation of Bishops, for reforming the idleness of many of the Cleargie; for easing the people of many un-

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necessary ceremonies in Religion, for removing unworthy and unprofitable Ministers, and for maintaining godly and diligent Preachers throughout the Kingdomes.

The establishing and ordering the Kings revenue, that so the abuse of officers, and superfluity of expences may be cut off, and the necessary disbursements for his Maiestys honour, the defence and government of the Kingdom, may be more certainly provided for, the regulating Courts of Justice, the settling of some good courtes for the preventing the exportation of gold and silver and the inequality of exchanging betwixt us and other Nations.

And for both houses of Parliament we may with truth and modestie say thus much, that we have ever bin carefull to confirme both the full dignity for the Crowne and prosperitie of the Realme.

The malignant party whom We have formerly described to be the actors and promoters of all our miserie, doe indeavor to worke in his Maiesty ill impressions and opinions of our proceedings, as if we had altogether done our owne worke and not his, they have had for great a partie of Bishops and Popish Lords in the house of Peeres as hath caused much opposition and delay to the prosecution of delinquents, hindred the proceedings of diverse good bills passed in the Commons house, concerning the reformation of sundry great abuses and corruptions both in the Church and State, they have labored to corrupt some of the Commons house to draw them into conspiracies and combinations against the libertie of parliament, thus they have bene continually practising to disturbe the pace, and plotting the destruction even of all the Kings dominions, which our vigilance discovered and defeated before they were ripe for execution in England and Scotland only in Ireland which was farther off they had time and opportunity to mould and prepare their worke that they had brought it to that perfection, that they had possessed themselves of that whole kingdom, totally subverted the government, rooted out religion, and destroyed all the Protestants therein, by Gods providence their enterprise upon the Citie and Castle of Dublin had not bene detected, yet they have in other parts of that kingdom broken out into Rebellion, but what supply or ayd can the Commons raise without the conjunction of the house of Lords, and what conjunction can we expect there, when the recusant Lords are so prevalent that they are able to crosse our best intentions for reformation, and by that meanes give aduantage to this malignant partie to traduce our proceedings, they infuse into the people

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ple, that we meane to abolish all Church Government, and leave every man to his owne fancy for service and worship of God. We doe here declare, that it is farre from our purpose or desire to loose the golden ruines of Discipline, and government in Church. leave private persons, or particular Congregations to take up what forme of Divine Service they please. For we hold it requisite, that there should be throughout the whole Realme a conformity to the Order which the Lawes enjoyne according to the word of God.

And we intend likewise to reforme and purge the *fontaines* of learning the two Vniversities, that the streames flowing from thence may be cleare, and purge, and an Honour and comfort to the whole Land. We are also very sollicitous, that all good courses may be taken to vnity, the two Kingdomes of *England* and *Scotland* to be mutually ayding and assisting of one another for the common good of the Island, against the common enemies of both: and to labour by all Offices of friendship to vnite the forraigne Churches with us in the same cause, and to seeke their liberty, safety, and prosperity, as bound therunto both by charity to them, and by wisdom for our owne good. For by this meanes our owne strength shall be increased, and by a mutuall concurrence to the same common ends, we shall be enabled to promote the good of the whole body of the Protestant Profession. If these things may be observed, we doubt not but God will crownethis *Parliament* with such success, as shall be the beginning and foundation of more Honour and happinesse to his Majesty, then ever yet was enjoyed by any of his Royal Predecessors.

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